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AVERY VALENTI BEING CROWNED MISS SPIRIT OF BLOSSOMTIME 2025 BY FRANCESCA SAGALA

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Berrien County Health Department offers safety tips for winter weather

As winter settles in and brings extreme temperatures and heavy snowfall to our area, the Berrien County Health Department is providing safety tips to community members.

It's important to winterize homes and vehicles since there is a higher risk of car crashes, hypothermia, frostbite and carbon monoxide poisoning during the winter months, according to Ready.gov.

"We encourage community members to prioritize preparing their home and vehicle for winter weather since conditions can change rapidly," BCHD Emergency Preparedness Coordinator Jeff Thornton said. "Spending a few moments developing a plan and making an emergency kit can help keep you and your loved ones safe when it's cold, snowy and icy out."

BCHD offers the following tips:

General safety tips:

- Keep your phone charged.
- Stay aware of weather forecasts via news reports and available weather apps for your smartphone.
- Learn the locations of local community warming shelters in case you lose power.
- Create an emergency kit and include the following items:
- Over-the-counter medication and any prescribed medication.
- Three-day supply of nonperishable food per person that can be prepared without a stove or microwave.
- Three gallons of water per person.
- F

irst-aid kit that includes bandages, gauze, antiseptic (wipes or bottled) adhesive tape, hot/cold compresses, burn cream and triangle bandages for slings or splints.

- Flashlight, battery-powered radio and extra batteries.
- Whistle to signal for help.
- Warm clothes and bedding like a sleeping bag or blankets.
- Pet supplies such as food, medication, etc.
- List of family emergency contact information and medication.

Community members also are encouraged to register for the Berrien County Office of Emergency Management's B-WARN! Emergency alert service that provides voice or text notifications.

It's also recommended residents download the FEMA App, which provides severe weather alerts for specific cities or ZIP codes and is available for iOS and Android users.

Winterizing your home:

- Insulate windows and doors to conserve heat.
- Leave one faucet dripping to prevent pipes from freezing.
- Open cabinet doors in your kitchen and bathrooms to allow warmer air to circulate around the plumbing. First, remove harmful cleaners and household chemicals stored in the cabinets.
- Locate the water valves in your home so you can turn them off and prevent any pipes from bursting.
- Clean gutters to prevent ice dams.
- Check your heating system and schedule a maintenance check, if needed.
- Buy a backup heating system, such as a generator. Never use a generator in your home – it should always be used outdoors.
- Never use an oven, gas stove or other unapproved devices to heat your home. This includes space heaters powered by kerosene or propane due to the risk of carbon monoxide.
- Install battery-operated carbon monoxide detectors near every sleeping area. Test your CO_2 detectors regularly to ensure they're working properly.
- Have a plan if you must leave your home – whether it's a neighbor's home or a nearby business such as a store or library – to limit the time you are exposed to the outside temperatures.

Preparing your vehicle:

- Always drive with your headlights on regardless of time of day to ensure you can be seen.
- Be proactive about using your turn signals.
- Check the tread on your tires and regularly check your tire pressure.
- Keep your gas tank at least half full to prevent the fuel line from freezing.
- Maintain a consistent car maintenance schedule to check brakes, engine oil, car battery, heating system and more.
- Turn your hazard lights on when you pull over.
- Remain alert to your location when driving, such as watching for mile markers and exits, which will help responders locate you more easily in an emergency.
- Remove distractions and always use hands-free options when available to keep your focus on the roadway.
- Pack an emergency kit with the following items:
- Battery-powered radio.
- Flashlight.
- Phone charger and battery-powered phone charging port.
- First-aid kit.
- Tire repair kit.
- Nonperishable food.
- Bottled water.
- Blankets and winter weather gear like gloves, hats and boots.

For more information on how to best prepare for winter weather, visit MIREADY's website. For additional resources on cold weather health and safety, visit the MDHHS website. — **STAFF REPORTS**

What true good is our own you ask? It is sound and exemplary reasoning that rises high above human wants and desires and counts "nothing" its own that resides outside of its own supreme reasoning. Histories finest minds show the soul is a reasoning being. Count yourself happy only when all your feelings of happiness begin with perfect reasoning and only when you identify and count as valueless all the material objects that most seek, want and care about most. — *Dino N. Fatouros*

Local Government Meetings

New Buffalo Times

Democracy Requires Transparency

CITY OF NEW BUFFALO
VANCE PRINCE, MAYOR
CITY COUNCIL
MARK ROBERTSON, ROGER LIJEWSKI, KAREN GEAR, RICH KNOLL, VANCE PRICE
City Council meets on the 3rd Monday of each month at 6:30PM
CITY OF NEW BUFFALO PLANNING COMMISSION MEETINGS
Meets on the 1st Tuesday of each month at 5:30PM
NEW BUFFALO TOWNSHIP BOARD
HOWARD MALES, MICHELLE HEIT, MICHELLE HANNON, PATTY IAZZETTO, BARBARA ANDERSON
Board meets on the 3rd Monday of each month at 4PM
NEW BUFFALO TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION
Meets on the 1st Tuesday of each month at 6:30PM
SHERIFF BERRIEN COUNTY
Sheriff, Chuck Heit
Undersheriff, Greg Sanders
NEW BUFFALO AREA RECREATIONAL AUTHORITY
Meets at 10AM on the 2nd Wednesday of every other month (odd) at New Buffalo Township Hall, 17425 Red Arrow Highway New Buffalo
NEW BUFFALO AREA SCHOOLS BOARD
LISA WERNER, JOHN HASKINS, DENISE CHURCHILL, JENNIFER SUMMERS, VANESSA THUN, STEPHEN DONNELLY, GREG VOSBERG
CHIKAMING TOWNSHIP
CHIKAMING TOWNSHIP BOARD
DAVID BUNTE, PAULA DUDIAK, LIZ RETTIG, RICHARD SULLIVAN, ARTHUR ANDERSON
Chikaming Board meets on the 2nd Thursday of each month at 6:30PM
CHIKAMING TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION
Meets on the 1st Wednesday of each month at 6:30PM
THREE OAKS
THREE OAKS TOWNSHIP BOARD
Meets on the 2nd Monday of each month at 7PM
VILLAGE OF THREE OAKS BOARD
Meets on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 7PM
GRAND BEACH
Meets on the 3rd Wednesday at 5PM EST
KIMBERLY WOLNIK, CLERK-TREASURER
HARRY WALDER, JACK GRACE, ED SEBASTIAN, PETER DOERR, EDWARD BRANDES
MICHIANA
VILLAGE OF MICHIANA COUNCIL
Meets on the 2nd Friday of each month at 1PM

Exhibit from Berrien County Farm Bureau earns national recognition

BY STAN MADDUX

Berrien County Farm Bureau was one of just 24 branches nationwide recognized by the American Farm Bureau Federation for their respective programs mostly related to agriculture.

Each of the selected Farm Bureau organizations received the "County Activities of Excellence Award" and illustrated their programs during the 106th annual AFBF convention from Jan. 24-29 in San Antonio, Texas.

About a half dozen representatives from Berrien County Farm Bureau showcased their award winning "No Farmer, No Fair Food" exhibit.

The three-year-old exhibit gives people, especially children, during the Berrien County Fair a chance to learn about the role agriculture plays in the creation of corn dogs and other popular fair foods.

Berrien County Farm Bureau President Ed Kretchman said the branch's Promotion and Education Committee came up with the idea for the exhibit, not to win any contest, but to educate the public in a fun manner.

"Recognition never really enters into it but it's awful nice, though, when you're recognized for your efforts," he said.

The exhibit inside the Ag Expo building during the fair is a roughly 50 foot long, 20-foot-wide maze, with the path created from hay stacked three bales high on each side.

People making their way through the maze encounter about a half dozen stations.

Each station depicts the image of one fair food item such as a corn dog, elephant ear, ice cream cone, caramel apple or beef tips.

A written explanation is also provided at each station that the food along with the ingredients came from a farm.

There's also specific information on things like how milk in the ice cream came from a cow and flour used to make an elephant ear was milled from wheat grown in a field.

There's also interaction at each station with a volunteer answering questions.

"It's just a way to connect consumers to the fact that the fair food they're enjoying is made or grown by farmers," said Sarah Pion, the Michigan Farm Bureau southwest regional manager.

She works with Farm Bureau branches in Berrien, Cass, St. Joseph, Van Buren and Kalamazoo counties.

Since not as many people live on farms nowadays, Pion said it's important to teach children that food doesn't just magically appear in stores and other places for them to grab and about the work involved in its production.

"It's because of agriculture that we have those treats at the fair," she said.

At the end of the maze, there's a corn pit sitting about 18 inches off the ground for children to lean over and reach into.

They can simply touch the kernels or grab one of the toy tractors in the pit and run it through the corn.

"Kids have a good time playing in it," Kretchman said.

There are also bales of hay near the pit for parents to sit on and rest a while.

Pion said nearly 3,000 children went through the maze during last year's fair.

Each of the winning Farm Bureau branches in attendance were personally given a certificate by AFBF President Zippy Duvall, who commended the volunteer driven programs.

"The county leaders responsible for these award winning programs are committed to supporting rural communities and helping their urban neighbors better understand agriculture," he said.

CHARGES IN LAKEFRONT HOME BURGLARY

Numerous items were taken from a home broken into close to Lake Michigan while the owners were in Arizona.

Duaine Gorbonosenko, 50, and Tara Vowels, 37, are charged in La Porte Superior Court 1 with Level 4 felony burglary.

Officers on Nov. 22 responded to the 200 block of Shorelane Drive near Long Beach after a neighbor, who was watching the home for the owners, discovered the burglary, according to court documents.

Police found an outside door forced open and numerous items, such as a television and king size mattress, taken from the residence.

Additional evidence of an intruder in the multiple story home included two used, but unflushed toilets, police said.

The investigation leading to the arrests on Jan. 16 revealed at least one person was paid cash to help carry the items into a cargo van, which appears to have made several trips to the home during a period that took place over several days.

Police said buyers were then sought for the assortment of stolen merchandise that included smaller items like a fur coat, purses and battery chargers.

The investigation also indicated the potential to come back for a Lexus still inside the garage, according to court documents.

Each of the suspects could receive anywhere from a two to 12 year sentence. — STAN MADDUX

Happiness depends upon ourselves. — Aristotle

To Your Health

COLUMN BY KAREN EDWARDS ND

PERIPHERAL NEUROPATHY & NUMBNESS

Other than Diabetes and other autoimmune disorders, numbness can be related to vitamin deficiencies. Peripheral neuropathy is most commonly a vitamin B12 deficiency. It can damage the myelin sheath surrounding the nerves. Depending upon the type of nerve involved, it may present as pain, numbness, tingling, loss of sensation and decreased motor activity. These symptoms occur because vitamins play a crucial role in the nervous system. Their absence can cause nerve conduction problems. Alcohol, medications, infections and trauma can also cause damage to the nerves.

A magnesium deficiency may eventually cause serious problems with your muscle and nerve function such as tingling, cramping, numbness and contractions (like that annoying eye twitch you just can't shake, or numbness in a limb). Magnesium is found in leafy greens mostly, Avocados, Oats, Soy, cashews, chia, flax and pumpkin seeds and brown rice. Thes foods are necessary for the nutrient content and the fiber they offer. Get on the band wagon for Vitamin and mineral content foods. Ridding foods that cause nerve damage.

A whole food plant-based diet can help correct numbness and neuropathy, as it puts the body into balance so all cells and tissue work and operate correctly. Ridding processed foods, sugar and gluten will help the body detox of the putrid waste that is blocking the nerve transmitters.

IF you are a smoker, it is imperative that you quit. Make it a priority for your health. Smoking causes nerve damage that can become permanent. It damages blood vessels, that restricts blood flow to the nerves in the extremities, leading to oxygen deprivation and nerve damage,

Cayenne Pepper can also help. It brings circulation to any deficient areas. For calves and feet: Place ¼ tsp. into a sock and put the sock on all night. You may need to remove it before morning, as it will get hot by opening up the stagnation and allowing blood to flow where it has not been. You can also take a small amount internally. Cayenne brings blood. Where there is blood, there is life. (Do not take if you are on blood thinners.)

Rest. This is vital to restore the blood flow to the deficient areas. Eating a high fiber diet (such as the suggested whole food plant based) will help move contents through the colon and out the eliminative channel. When contents are "Stuck" somewhere, it destroys the blood flow and energy to that area. Moving these metabolic wastes out is key to getting the integrity back to the limb.

Remove all table salt. Only use Redmond's real salt or pink Himalayan salt sparingly. These are rich in minerals that ensure the body to heal. Table salt is full of dyes, anticaking agents and chemicals and are laden with bleach. It is toxic and tears arteries.

Use your own intuition as to what you should and should not put into your body. We all have the instinct to know what is right for us. Our bodies are our temples. We have one go around to take care of it.

Disclaimer: Nothing in these articles is meant to replace medical advice. If you are on medications, do not stop taking them. This is for educational purposes.

Karen Edwards is a board-Certified Dr. of Naturopathy, Master Herbalist, Vegan and Raw food Chef. She is owner of Holistic Alternatives in New Buffalo and La Porte for over 25 years.

The Art of Candida Alvarez

BEYOND THE CANVAS

BY ALEXANDER FATOUROS

A leading figure in contemporary art, Candida Alvarez is an American painter and studio artist renowned for her dynamic use of color and bold experimentation. Her vibrant works seamlessly blend abstract and figurative elements, earning her recognition as one of the world's most innovative painters. Alvarez's work has been collected by prominent private collections and institutions worldwide, including the Whitney Museum of American Art, the Art Institute of Chicago, and the Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago.

Finding inspiration in the idyllic setting of her barn-turned art studio, nestled amidst the tranquil beauty of Baroda, Michigan, near the shores of Lake Michigan, Alvarez admirably translates her artistic vision across mediums. The celebrated painter once collaborated with fashion rebel Rei Kawakubo of Comme des Garçons, and notably, music artist Pharrell Williams sported one of these collaborative pieces in a December 2019 Vogue article, photographed by Mario Testino.

The Brooklyn native's striking compositions and unique aesthetic transcend the canvas, connecting the intimate scale of fashion collaborations to the grander scope of public art. Seeing her paintings move in space expands our understanding of how art can transform a space. Layered imagery, like a choreographed dance, invites repeated viewings, revealing new depths and hidden narratives with each encounter.

Her previous work includes the impressive "Howlings-Soft Painting," a 27ft x 200ft mural that transformed the Chicago Riverwalk into a cinematic spectacle. When discussing her interest in large-scale public art projects, Alvarez shared,

"Well, I love large scale. I love being in a building and sensing that as a boundary. You know? I love the opportunity to work bigger with architecture, perhaps in the future. I've done a two-story space at the Fashion Outlets surrounding an elevator back there. It's a weird space, but it was an opportunity to see what would happen to see this work go up. I've done wallpaper on a huge wall in Arles, France. It was as a result of a residency that Laura Owens and the LUMA Foundation (Arles, FR) put together. So slowly but surely, I'm having these opportunities to see what happens in in real time. You know, when the work becomes part of a real living space, right? And how it moves, and how it can affect you. it's fun. It's good. It's a good opportunity. There'll be some other things happening at the JFK, one of the new terminals, where I'll have a mosaic, you'll be able to walk into one of my works."

Alvarez's work, often imbued with a sense of mystery and intrigue, translates personal experiences and cultural observations into a visual language that is both intimate and universal. An alum of the Yale School of Art, Alvarez divides her time between the dynamic energy of New York City and Chicago and the serene inspiration of her Michigan retreat. Reflecting on her journey, she humbly admits, "I never thought that I would be doing this for my life's work. I never even knew that this could be a vocation or a profession."

A painter of Puerto Rican heritage, Alvarez is a professor of painting and drawing at The Cooper Union for the Advancement of Science and Art and the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. She provides a detailed glimpse into her creative process and the personal inspiration behind the "Flor de Caballo" series.

"I did a series called Flor de Caballo, which was basically Flor which means flower, and Caballo, which means horse. I was thinking about the beginning and sort of the ending of a long career in teaching at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, and what it was about 20 years right? So I wanted to make a series of paintings that sort of orbited this world. And so I decided that I would begin with one of the first pieces that my eyes gazed upon when I went to the museum, because the first thing I did was go to the museum before I went into the school, right? And so it was a terracotta piece from the Tang Dynasty, okay? And it's this beautiful woman. It's a woman on a horse, and it's always there. And it's just lovely. And I just love the terracottas. And I went there, and I could never forget that piece. And I always go back looking for it and hope. And thankfully, it's always there. And so I use that as a beginning point, and then I wanted to juxtapose that with an image of a flower that was actually gifted to me at the time of the pandemic, and it was an orchid."

Alvarez is currently preparing for an exhibition at the GRAY NEW YORK gallery. Her work will be featured alongside pieces by Bob Thompson, an artist whose work has influenced her own practice. She explained that she feels a connection to Thompson's work, particularly its biblical themes and expressive style. "So I'm having a conversation with Bob Thompson right now in my studio. And so I'm having a ball. And I learned about him in the 1990s when I was a student at Yale getting my MFA, there was a PhD candidate, Judith Wilson, who was writing on Bob Thompson. And so I learned a ton of him, you know about him from her," she says,

Art Talk at The Cooper Union. Candida Alvarez shares her artistic journey in December 2024. Photo by Alexander Fatouros

Between Two Things, From Air Paintings, 2019. latex ink, acrylic, and collage on PVC mesh with aluminum and wood Courtesy of the Artist and Monique Meloche Gallery. Image Tom Van Eynde

Clear, 2023, Flashe paint, paint pen on linen, 84 x 72 inches. Courtesy of the Artist and Monique Meloche Gallery. Image credit Tom Van Eynde

Skowhegan no. 6, 2023. Courtesy of the Artist and Monique Meloche Gallery. Image credit Tom Van Eynd

Mary in the Sky with Diamonds, 2005. Collection of The Art Institute of Chicago. Courtesy of the Artist and Monique Meloche Gallery. Photo Tom Van Eynde

Candida Alvarez's farm in Baroda, Michigan. Courtesy Candida Alvarez Studio Photo by Sarah Ayers

Mostly Clear, 2023. Courtesy of the Artist and Monique Meloche Gallery. Image credit Tom Van Eynde

Celebrated painter Candida Alvarez in her Barn-turned Art Studio in Baroda, Michigan. Courtesy Candida Alvarez Studio Photo by Sarah Ayers

Mostly Cloudy, 2023. Collection of the Denver Art Museum Courtesy of the Artist and Monique Meloche Gallery. Image credit Tom Van Eynde

Partly Cloudy, 2023. Acrylic, paint pen, glitter on linen. Private Collection. Courtesy of the Artist and Monique Meloche Gallery. Photo credit Tom Van Eynde

Nueva York, 1991, lithograph. Collection of Whitney Museum of Art Courtesy of the Artist, Candida Alvare

Zip me up, 2022. Fashion Outlets of Chicago. Courtesy of the Artist and Monique Meloche Gallery

The orchid flower that was gifted to Candida Alvarez at the time of the pandemic. Courtesy Candida Alvarez Studio, Baroda, Michigan. Photo by Sarah Ayers

"...his works were so biblical, in a way... One of my first source books was the Bible too."

"The idea of using books and photos is really important to the work," Alvarez stated, highlighting the role of research and historical context in her artistic process. She explained that her paintings draw inspiration from various sources, including photographs, books, and narratives, which then undergo a process of abstraction and transformation.

"There's a whole range of works that I admire and look at," she explains. The artist's fascination with Picasso's "Three Musicians" is evident. To grapple with his legacy, to understand how he continues to resonate even today, she explores that puzzle. "And so I just thought it was funny, because it was like the 100 years [anniversary] of the 'Three Musicians'—that painting with the dog underneath the table, you know? Yeah, and so I've been puzzled by that painting. It's weird. And so I decided I would deal with a puzzle, like I'm trying to dismantle and understand that painting. And so I just did a series of painting called 'Pica. Pica,' which is like, 'itch,' like, 'Picasso,' you're itching me. It's kind of I want to get rid of you, but, you know, I can't, because you're so like everywhere, right? Structurally, it's very beautiful. I love the idea that there's an animal, but there's also this geometry. And so for me, that clash is really important."

Emphasizing her rejection of easy categorization and her belief that the power of her work lies in its ability to transcend simple labels like "abstraction,» Alvarez offers a nuanced perspective on her artistic style.

"If I had a signature style, I'd be dead. So I feel I don't want to have a signature style, okay? I just want to be known as an artist who was committed to using color and who could who was eternally grateful to drawing as as a beginning point. Drawing is so fundamentally important in everything you know? from our handwriting to you know to everything right, you have to learn how to write your name. But drawing is fundamentally important. That's how it all began, and painting."

"I have the courage to trust something that I can't name all the time, like I don't want to name it, like, I mean, abstraction is already such a big word and loaded word that it drives me nuts sometimes, because people want to compartmentalize painting, and for me, a painting doesn't work if it's compartmentalized. Only works if it stays alive after so many years," said Alvarez.

"Abstraction is how we receive information," Alvarez explains. "I think the best paintings are the ones that are like magnets. They just draw you into them, and they hold you formally. Because there's we learn, you know, I've learned about composition and why the paintings work, sure, and how to keep the eye revolving through a painting. And so the longer you can keep an eye revolving, there is such a thing as a beginning point in every painting, and it's where your eyes begin to enter. And then it goes around and around and around, depending on how good the [artist] is, you know, negotiates all of that, right? It's and how the colors allow one to move with that compositional story, right? It's what makes a painting work."

"Painting is a language," she explains, emphasizing her view of painting as a powerful means of communication and expression, akin to language. Painting is knowledge, right? It's not a knowledge that you can just buy or define." Instead, it's a journey of self-discovery, a way to "track a sort of a life story" and "embody a kind of presentness." She describes the process as "pleasurable," emphasizing the importance of finding joy and peace within the act of creation. "I want my work to embody a kind of presentness," she states.

For Alvarez, the act of painting is a deeply personal and intuitive process. "The process takes on its own, its own thing," she says. "It just becomes the painting, becomes itself through all the negotiations that I do...It's about looking and, you know, just being in it, and just enjoying it too."

Alvarez asserts that her paintings are not passive containers, but active entities that require viewer participation. "I'm just interested in sort of being very attuned to where I'm at the moment, It's about being present with myself in that moment that I'm making that painting. The painting only works because the viewer is looking at it," she continued. "I like to think of it as living piece... it's what holds the paintings together. It's the chattiness."

"It's really about tracking a sort of a life story in a way, you know a way to track an everyday occurrence or something that stood out." She also emphasizes the unexpected, stating, "But then there's sometimes I like having something kind of that you don't expect, like something sparkly." She continued, adding "There's something about the way a color can hug you, sure, or the way a color can sort of hold you, pin you down and not want to let you go."

Alvarez's paintings possess an almost performative quality. Her bold, vibrant colors create a dynamic energy that pulls viewers in. "A painting will change right in front of your eyes, depending on the lighting." This sense of constant evolution, a touch of the ephemeral, mirrors the fleeting nature of performance art.

"It's just fun. It's fun, you know, it's also very quiet. It's a very quiet experience. It's a kind of a mystery," she said. Her work often exudes a vibrant sense of freedom, evident in the dynamic interplay of colors and the expressive, almost gestural quality of her brushstrokes. Her thoughtful approach to material selection is evident in her use of acrylic on canvas, oil on wood panels, and oil on birch panels.

Emphasizing a belief in the power of personal choice and the accessibility of artistic expression, she continued, adding, «We have things within us that allow us to kind of gravitate towards things that we like or not like, right? We have choices. We can make choices, even if we don't have a lot of money. There's still, you know, pencils, there's still paper, right?"

Abstract and expressive, Candida Alvarez's art bursts with joy, pulsates with movement, and radiates vitality. Reflecting a belief in the art's power to uplift and inspire, her work serves as a powerful inspiration for a new generation of creative minds. Alvarez will present a major exhibition at Richard Gray Gallery in New York City opening on April 30th. She will also participate in Frieze Los Angeles in April 2025. She is represented by Monique Meloche Gallery.

Bison fall just short after fighting back

BY STAN MADDUX

The game against more physically gifted players seemed over but the New Buffalo High School boys' basketball team stormed back from a 21-point deficit to nearly pull off an upset at home Tuesday, Jan. 28.

The Bison lost to Phoenix High School out of Kalamazoo 61-53.

New Buffalo, which was trailing by nine points at halftime, was suddenly behind 43-22 midway through the third quarter.

At one point, Head Coach Nate Tripp sat all of his starting players, who understandably looked defeated by the Falcons, who came into the game with just one loss this season.

After his starters returned two minutes later, the momentum shifted, though, almost like an earthquake for the Bison on both sides of the court.

The increased pressure the Bison started applying on defense seemed to blindside the taller and quicker Falcons, who were now the ones being stripped of the ball and committing turnovers.

Some of those turnovers led to points for the Bison, who also began moving the ball much faster up the court.

Suddenly, the lead shrank to eight points largely from 6'4" junior Lucas Forker muscling the ball up for points near the rim after struggling with the size of his defenders, who blocked some of his previous shots.

Forker also scored when he raced in with the ball from half court for a lay-up with a defender racing in from behind.

After grabbing a nifty pass from junior Nick Haskins, Forker used a head fake in the now charged atmosphere to execute a short turnaround bank shot.

Haskins then cut the lead to five points by sinking a three-point shot from the baseline with about two minutes left on the game clock.

The Bison (10-7) could get no closer, though.

"It was a good run. It's too bad that we dug ourselves into the hole that we did," he said.

Forker finished with 19 points.

M'Nason Smothers, James Shaw and Trevor James each had eight points.

New Buffalo fell just short in a thrilling showdown at home between the best two boys' basketball teams in their conference Thursday, Jan. 23.

The Bison lost to Michigan Lutheran 70-65 after leading the entire game until the final minutes of the fourth quarter.

New Buffalo narrowly defeated the Titans on the road earlier in the season.

Tripp placed the blame for the loss on referees calling what he strongly felt were too many undeserved fouls on his players.

"I'm furious. They cost us the game," he said.

The game resulted in the Bison and Titans having just one loss apiece in their division of the Berrien Cass St. Joseph Conference.

Offensively, New Buffalo relied heavily on 6'4" center Lucas Forker, who led all scorers with 38 points.

M'Nason Smothers and Trevor James, combined, had 18 points.

The Bison had a nine-point lead after the first quarter but the Titans, with help from three-point shooting and points from offensive rebounds, pulled to within four points at halftime.

The Titans further narrowed the margin to one point early in the third quarter.

However, Forker, with help from three-point shots by James and Sam Tripp, triggered a run that ended with the Bison up by 11 points.

The Titans, though, came roaring back once again.

Eventually, they pulled to within three points but a spectacular lay-up at the buzzer from the 5'7" Smothers gave the Bison a seven-point lead going into the final period.

New Buffalo was ahead 62-52 when the block of a shot from a driving Smothers seemed to ignite another comeback from the Titans, who scored 10 unanswered points to even the score with just over three minutes left in the game.

The momentum appeared to swing further toward the Titans when Forker, while moving to the rim, was twice within a short period of time called for charging.

Both fouls were hotly disputed by Tripp and many fans judging by the reaction from the good-sized crowd.

Michigan Lutheran went on to score eight more points, while the Bison mustered just three more scores the rest of the way.

Tripp said lack of rebounding from his players also hurt the team.

"We got crushed on the glass," he said.

On the bright side, he credited Tripp and James Shaw for their passing and how they ran the offense while limiting turnovers to the fewest committed over the past several games.

Tripp said the focus was on getting the ball to Forker because of his ability to make shots close to the rim and take advantage of the Titans staying in a zone defense to stop his three-point shooters.

SPORTS

From the Bleachers

COLUMN BY KURT MARGGRAF IN CHICAGO

Bears fans are so excited with the hiring of the coach that everyone else wanted.

Ben Johnson seems to be the answer to the prayers that the owners, players, and fans have been hoping for. He is charismatic, tough, and has a brilliant offensive mind. In other words, he appears to be the anti Eberflus and for the Bears, he is just what the doctor ordered.

Ryan Poles, the Bears general manager, has made a few mistakes while learning his craft on the job, but everything seems to be coming together for a playoff run next season and a super bowl run the year after. How did the Bears get to this point?

The Bears fired Matt Nagy and began their search for a new head coach. They were strongly considering Matt Eberflus when they hired Ryan Poles as the new GM, and he liked Eberflus so he was hired. The team was terrible and had the worst record in the league, so they had the first draft choice and Poles traded it for a Kings ransom.

They were terrible again, had the first draft choice again, and drafted Caleb Williams to be their quarterback. They were disappointingly bad again, fired Eberflus, and hired Johnson.

So here we are. We start next year with lots of money to sign free agents, the tenth pick in the college draft plus a couple of second rounders, a potential franchise quarterback in his second year, and a head coach who has the potential to be great.

What the Bears don't currently have are any offensive linemen and not enough defensive linemen.

After watching the Eagles, Commanders, Bills, and Chiefs battle to reach the Super Bowl, it became even more obvious. However, most other things seem to be in place and if they can gather enough excellent linemen over the next couple of years, football in Chicago will be fun again.

My apologies to coach Eberflus. I think he will be a very good defensive coordinator for whatever team he ends up with and he seemed like a good guy, but he fell short of being a good head coach. This years big game features a couple of great teams and should be a tremendous battle.

Switching sports, last year the Cubs hired a manager to help them reach the playoffs. Unfortunately, they forgot to supply him with a bullpen and the team ended up with the same record they had the season before. It looked like the same thing was going to happen this year, but the Cubs finally made a move and acquired the Houston Astros set up man, Ryan Pressly, to be the teams closer. I'm not sure if the bullpen will be good, but at least there will be new arms.

It's hard to believe, but Cub pitchers and catchers report in 14 days, on February 9th, the same day as the Super Bowl.

Nelson Mandela said, "The greatest glory in living lies not in never falling, but in rising every time we fall".

Be kind. Talk to you next week. Peace, love, and happiness.

I actually have a closet that's all shoes, maybe 700 pairs.
— Russell Westbrook

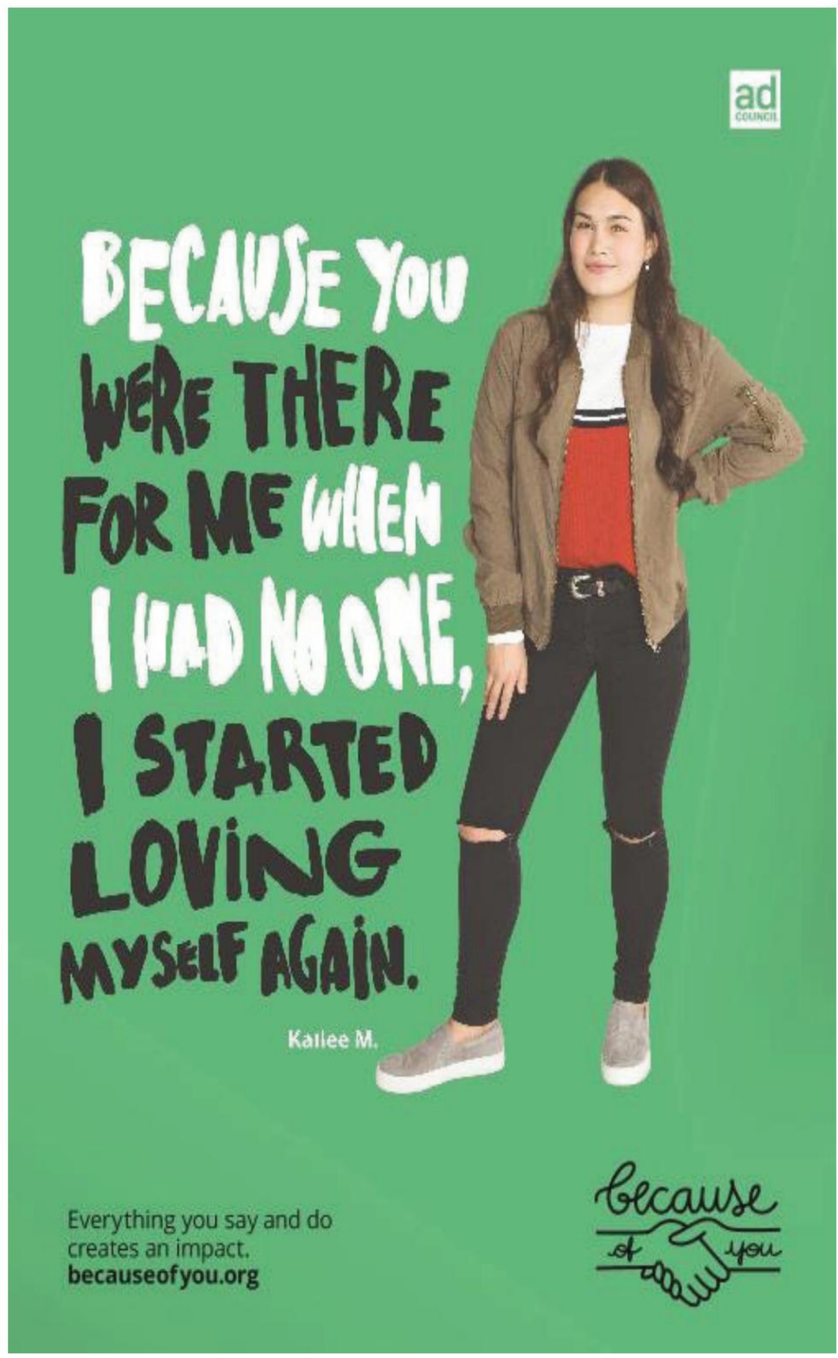
EMPTY BOWLS DINNER ON TAP FOR NEXT MONTH

The New Buffalo High School Student Senate, along with Nicole Bowen's Foods and Nutrition class and Ashley Jager's Pottery Club, will be hosting the 13th annual Empty Bowls benefit dinner from 5-7 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 18, in the middle/high school cafeteria.

Proceeds from the dinner will go to the Blessings in a Backpack program, which benefits New Buffalo Elementary students in need.

For those who would like to attend the benefit dinner, a suggested donation of $10 will provide guests with a ceramic bowl made by a New Buffalo High School student, and a meal of soup or chili with crackers, a beverage, and a dessert.

New Buffalo Middle/High School is located at 1112 East Clay St. in New Buffalo. — STAFF REPORTS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SCHOLASTICS

New Buffalo school board approves girls' volleyball sports merger

BY FRANCESCA SAGALA

Members of the New Buffalo Area Schools Board of Education approved the girls' volleyball sports merger with River Valley Schools at their Monday, Jan. 27, meeting.

New Buffalo Area Schools Superintendent Adam Bowen said that River Valley will be the lead school for volleyball.

Per the River Valley Athletics Facebook, to prepare for the upcoming merger, a joint committee between the two schools "conducted interviews for the head coaching position of the Red Arrow Raiders." Carly Barton, who will be the varsity coach for the Raiders' inaugural volleyball season, has played high school volleyball at Niles and college volleyball at KVCC before transitioning to high school coaching.

Board members will be hearing an update on the continuing merging of sports with River Valley from athletic director Matt Johnson at a meeting closer to the spring.

Recently, girls' basketball merged with River Valley. Due to both schools not being able to field a junior varsity and varsity team, freshmen had been playing at the varsity level, which "isn't very beneficial for them," Bowen said.

"The hope is that we'll have teams that will be able to field a freshman, a junior varsity and a varsity so kids are playing at the appropriate level," he added.

Board members amended the 2024-2025 budget.

Last November, voters renewed a 19.875 mill property tax in conjunction with Proposal A for six years.

Per the River Valley Athletics Facebook, to prepare for the upcoming merger, a joint committee between the two schools "conducted interviews for the head coaching position of the Red Arrow Raiders." Carly Barton, who will be the varsity coach for the Raiders' inaugural volleyball season, has played high school volleyball at Niles and college volleyball at KVCC before transitioning to high school coaching.

Finance director Pano Arvanitis Arvanitis said the proposed budget is for an 18 mill levy, which for 2024 will be levied on all non-principal residence, non-qualified agricultural property, non-qualified forest property, non-supportive housing property, non-PSA-occupied property and non-industrial property in the district to fund most general operations. Estimated revenue generated by the levy will be $16,529,871, or approximately 80 percent of the district's revenues.

In the General Fund, local revenues were about 87 percent, or $18,369, 645, of the district's revenues, state and federal revenues were 12 percent, with state being $2,298,281 and federal being $163,424 and other local revenues being $250,805 for $21,082,155 worth of revenues this year.

Regarding expenditures, the majority went to payroll and benefits at 67 percent and other expenses were 33 percent, with total expenses being $21,520,904.

The fund balance as of June 30 is projected to be $4.5 million.

Arvanitis gave a breakdown of expense that are "out of the ordinary from normal school operations": open gym, where residents residing within the district have access to a basketball court, weight room, indoor walking track and cardio facilities; community outdoor recreation, which includes a pickleball and tennis courts, skate park and a baseball/softball field; art teacher Ashley Jager's community pottery classes; community youth activities, which include the New Buffalo Youth Sports' use of basketball courts for practice and clinics, summer camp and Bison Afterschool Enrichment; the community daycare and the district letting community groups use its facilities, such as the Service League using the gyms for its arts and crafts show to raise money for scholarships and public safety teams using facilities for training at no charge.

Board members approved hiring Mark German in the position of operations director, effective immediately.

A graduate of the school district, Bowen said that this February will mark German's 10th year of serving in the role as maintenance personnel.

"He's done a great job working in the maintenance department so it just kind of made sense when we went through that interview process to make him the next operations director," Bowen said.

He added that German has ideas that are geared toward working with staff and that he's "very confident that he's going to be able to show them some leadership and guide them appropriately."

Board members approved the bid from Moss for Fiber Optic Cable upgrade for the middle/high school.

Bowen said that the schools' infrastructure for their technology is aging out. The fiber will go from the closets and will feed different points throughout the building. This will allow an upgrade to a more substantial internet speed, which is currently only about one gigabyte.

In the future, new switches will also need to be purchased.

Bowen said that the money will be used from the district's E-Rate, which is through some state funding grants, and that they had about $60,000 to $70,000 to utilize by this February.

Board members learned that Bowen has approved Jazmyne Grider as a daycare aide, pending background check.

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First runner-up to Miss St. Joseph crowned 2025 Miss Spirit

BY FRANCESCA SAGALA

The 2025 Miss Spirit of Blossomtime was crowned on her home turf Saturday, Jan. 25.

First Runner-up to Miss St. Joseph 2025 Avery Valenti was crowned by 2024 Miss Spirit Amri Kuhn during the Dollywood-themed pageant at the St. Joseph High School Auditorium.

"Thank you to my parents, my court, my committee members - everyone who helped out," Avery said upon being crowned.

Avery also thanked the audience for coming out and supporting that night's contestants, whom she said she enjoyed getting to know.

"I love all you guys, you're all so wonderful and amazing and you're all winners in my heart," she said.

A senior at St. Joseph High School, Avery is the daughter of Jill and Daniel Valenti. She's a member of the National Honor Society, Student Senate and Key Club. She also participates in Varsity Sideline Cheer and varsity track and field.

Avery will receive a $1400 scholarship award and various gifts and prizes for being crowned Miss Spirit 2025.

This marked the 12th year for the Miss Spirit competition, which is held once all the communities have held their contests. It is open to all first runners up and offers one more young woman the opportunity to enjoy

Emcee Tim Taylor talks with First Runner-up to Miss New Buffalo Jane Funk (left), a Top Five contestant

Contestants take the stage during the opening number

First Runner-up Miss New Buffalo Jane Funk

Miss Spirit of Blossomtime 2024 Amri Kuhn

First Runner-up to Miss New Buffalo Jane Funk

First Runner-up to Miss Three Oaks and River Valley Lydia Habel

Miss Michigan 2023 Maya Schuhknecht, a past Miss Spirit, speaks with fellow Miss Spirit alumna

Emcee Tim Taylor talks with the Top Five contestants

Miss New Buffalo 2025 Ellen Ripley introduces herself to the audience

Contestants perform the opening number

First Runner-up to Miss New Buffalo Jane Funk

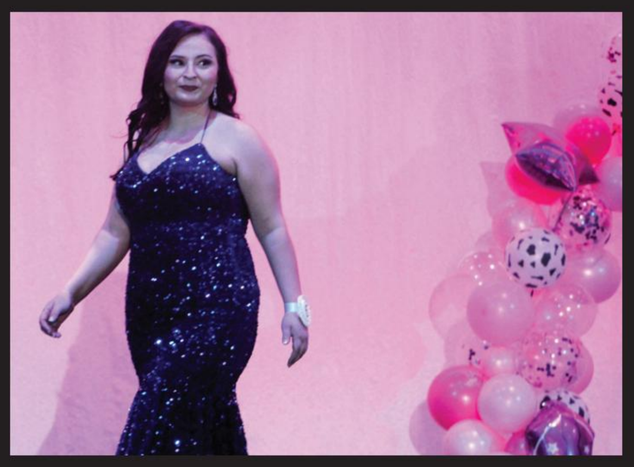
Bud, Junior Teen and Teen Blossomtime courts take the stage

Avery Valenti is crowned 2025 Miss Spirit of Blossomtime

Contestants pose in their formal wear

Miss Spirit 2024 Amri Kuhn bids farewell

First runner-up to Miss Bridgman Eva Ugalde takes the stage



First Runner-up to Miss Bridgman Eva Ugalde graces the stage

Miss Bridgman 2025 Ava Starbuck introduces herself

Co-Mr. New Buffalos Ekolu Brown and Kayden Hall introduce themselves

Community queens take the stage

the many events and activities her sister queens will participate in. Miss Spirit will go on to compete in the Showcase of Queens awards at the Mr. Blossomtime and Showcase of Queens Pageant and is eligible for all awards and all placements awarded at the Miss Blossomtime Pageant.

Avery said she believes that Miss Spirit is about "connection" as well as a chance for other first runners up to "connect" with each other and "for them to move forward to Blossomtime."

"For me, I would bring positivity and a sense of support for everyone to Miss Spirit – I'm always willing to support everyone in this room and all those girls back there," she said when asked by emcee Tim Taylor what she'd uniquely bring to the role.

Twenty contestants competed for the title of Miss Spirit.

The People's Choice award, which was voted on by the pageant attendees, was won by Jane Funk, first runner-up to New Buffalo. Other contestants that were awarded $200 scholarships for making the Top Five were from the communities of New Buffalo, Niles, South Haven, St Joseph, and Stevensville.

Mr. Blossomtime and the Showcase of Queens will be held at 7 p.m. Sunday, April 13, at LMC Mendel Center. Miss Blossomtime will be held at 7 p.m. Monday, April 14, at LMC Mendel Center. Premier seating for each night is $45.

General admission seating for each night is $40 and will be available March 18 by calling or e-mailing the Blossomtime Festival Office at 269-861-0998 or office@blossomtimefestival.org.

Raiders hang on to defeat Tigers in girls' basketball

BY STAN MADDUX

The Red Arrow Raiders defeated Benton Harbor 35-29 in girls' high school basketball in what seemed like a rollercoaster ride on the scoreboard Monday, Jan. 27.

The Raiders scored 12 of the first 14 points with help from a pair of three point buckets from Peyton Swaim and Emma Seifert nailing a 15 foot jump shot.

Benton Harbor, with help from steals and turnovers, came roaring back, scoring the next 13 points to take a three-point lead with about three minutes left in the second quarter.

The Raiders (5-5) didn't score again until Addison Lynch, after a long pass from Laney Strother, made a short bank shot to pull within one point just before halftime.

Lynch, a freshman, was like lightning in a bottle to start the third quarter by scoring the first six points for the Raiders.

After a three point shot from Benton Harbor, Swaim hit a three point shot of her own and was fouled in the process.

She sank the free throw to give the Raiders a six point lead just before the start of the fourth quarter.

Quickly, though, the Tigers pulled back to within two points.

However, the Raiders made two consecutive baskets on an eight foot turnaround jump shot from Lynch and a three point shot from Seifert.

After Benton Harbor narrowed the lead to four points, Strother came back with a three point bucket from just beyond the top of the key.

Strother, a sophomore, finished off the Tigers by sinking two free throws with nine seconds left in the game.

Head Coach Jason Alexander was pleased with how his players of mostly sophomores stayed together and kept encouraging each other even during stretches when they were making a lot of mistakes.

"That's one area where we are showing growth," he said.

Alexander said his players still have work to do at becoming more consistent at taking higher percentage shots and ball handing limiting mistakes.

"If we stay disciplined and we execute in handling the basketball, we're going to be a hard team to beat," he said.

Swaim and Lynch each scored 10 points, while Strother contributed seven points.

Alexander said Lynch, who also competes in wrestling, is a scrapper who has a knack for pulling off the unexpected on the court.

"She's always in the right place at the right time for those rebounds and things of that nature. She's fun to be around," he said.

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A Writer's Life...

DURING THE GOLDEN AGE OF TELEVISION ANIMATION

BY JACK OLESKER

Shifting into second gear, and my 'Ah-ha' moment...

Andy is pleased after the CBS meeting. Things have changed. I am valuable to him and Jean. When we return to the studio Andy says, "Go see Lori,"

Lori Crawford is behind her perpetually cluttered desk in her sunlit office, a big smile on her face. Knowingly, she says, "Judy liked your scripts."

I nod, adding, "I think she actually read them." It puzzles me that Judy Price read my scripts since The Littles is an ABC series and Judy the VP of Children's Entertainment for CBS. Lori smiles as she see it dawn on me and I say, "She was sizing me up for a CBS series."

Lori grins wider. "Smart guy."

Now that we'd gotten the small talk out of the way, I ask, "So what's up?"

Coyly, she asks, "In the meantime do you want to write more Littles scripts?"

I take a seat in a chair across from her desk. "You bet."

"Write some springboards and get them to me. Jean will pick out two for you to write treatments for. After heapproves the treatments you'll go to script."

I have moved into second gear, getting assignments for two scripts at a time. It means three thousand dollars. Nice, but not enough. Not nearly enough.

I see Lori looking straight at me and I say, "Something's going on..."

She leans forward, her voice lowering. "You are asmart guy, Jack. I think you're gonna do okay. But leave the business to Jean and Andy. Stick to writing."

I get it. When the elephants are in motion, smart mice stay out of their way. I decide to follow her advice and stick to writing.

I agree with the playwright Noel Coward who said, "Work is much more fun than fun." I write five springboards overnight and, bleary-eyed, deliver them to Lori the next morning. She tucks the springboards into a folder and says she'll get them to Jean.

I nod and head home. I take a long nap and wake at seven, feeling better. I shower and head out to La Frite in nearby Sherman Oaks.

La Frite is an upscale L.A. French eatery. Great escargot and lots of good-looking people hanging at the bar. I'm sitting next to a beautiful young woman who, thirty seconds after I sit, turns to me, flashes a dazzling smile and says, "Hi"," quickly followed by "What do you do?" One of the things I love about L.A. is that there's no warmup, no drill. Just straight into the game.

I answer, "I'm a writer."

Unimpressed, she says, "We all write."

A bit testy, I return with "No, we all spell. We don't all write."

This holds her attention. She tilts her head slightly, long, perfectly manicured red fingernails moving thick blonde hair back, and she asks, "Have you written anything I've ever heard of?"

I query, "Have you ever heard of The Littles?"

She squeals "I love The Littles! The turtle! He's so cute! What's his name?!"

"Slick." Summoning my best Slick-impersonation, I offer, "Eeee! Eeee!"

She lets out a long, lilting laugh. Then she gently places her fingertips on my right forearm and coos, "I'm Jocelyn..."

Ah-ha, I think.

Jack Olesker's career in the entertainment industry spans over four decades. He has served as a story editor in L.A. as well as president of a motion picture and television company in Chennai, India. His writing ranges from Mighty Morphin Power Rangers, Care Bears and Hello Kitty's Furry Tale Theater to documentaries and horror novels and murder mysteries for adults.

HOROSCOPE

JANUARY 30-FEBRUARY 5, 2025

AS INTERPRETED BY SANDY "STAR" BENDT

ARIES MARCH 21—APRIL 19

There is a strong desire to keep your emotions and ideas to yourself this week but the truth is this is the right time to express yourself to others. Be honest with friends and loved ones now. If you need to advocate for yourself, do it. Clear the air and lay the groundwork for a better connection.

TAURUS APRIL 20—MAY 20

Friends and social media could be a source of confusion and misunderstandings this week. You may be misjudged or misinterpreted which in turn, may require some explaining on your part. Boundaries may be tested and good communication skills will be needed now.

GEMINI MAY 21—JUNE 21

Focus on creating things that will last this week. Don't get caught up on intrigues and half statements. Ask for clarification when needed. It is important to keep all dealings above board to avoid misunderstandings and future downfalls. Set the stage for success by being open and honest.

CANCER JUNE 22—JULY 22

Work on getting yourself established through reciprocity and cooperation. Be sure interactions and dealings benefit both parties. Don't sell yourself short to accommodate others. Avoid actions that are based in fear and desperation. Act from the space of abundance and success will follow.

LEO JULY 23—AUGUST 22

People will be drawn to you now and will want to get more involved in your life and situation. Utilize this fully, by sharing your ideas and asking for feedback. You may have put in a lot of hard work into something but if you don't open up and share it, what good is it? Use criticism to perfect it.

VIRGO AUGUST 23—SEPTEMBER 22

This is the week to show coworkers and higher-ups that you are reliable and that you will not waiver on what is the correct or the right way to fix things. Don't play games with your reputation or try to do things on the down low because you will likely be seen and judged now.

LIBRA SEPTEMBER 23—OCTOBER 22

You will be in the flow to make your mark or stand out amongst your colleagues. Know that you have the ability to make things run smoother and more efficiently at work. Don't shy away from the chance to show off your ideas and harmonizing skills. Creative successes are yours this week.

SCORPIO OCTOBER 23—NOVEMBER 21

It is time to balance things out between family and domestic responsibilities. Understand that you may have to encourage others to participate more or share their space more at a time when they may feel taken for granted. Be sure to honor and show gratitude for what people do.

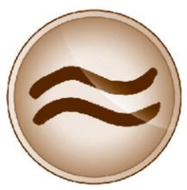
SAGITTARIUS NOVEMBER 22—DECEMBER 21

Partners will surprise you this week. Be prepared for some unexpected views or lines of questioning. Be aware that there is a culmination of things that may be brewing with family and partners and they may be at the boiling point. Be supportive but don't be a punching bag.

CAPRICORN DECEMBER 22—JANUARY 19

This is the time to set the record straight with coworkers and improve working conditions. If someone has been overstepping or trying to take credit for your efforts, be ready to prove that you had the original idea and others have just played off of it. Be more selective with who and what you share.

AQUARIUS JANUARY 20—FEBRUARY 18



It will be easy to think things are more valuable than they really are this week. Falling prey to illusions and gas lighting is very possible now. Understand that people will be vague and use innuendos to avoid their true intentions being discovered. Ask for extra information and check their sources.

PISCES FEBRUARY 19—MARCH 20

This week the energy coming your way is all about making your life and efforts do more for you. Avoid taking on the responsibilities of others when you already have a full work load. That's not to say you can't listen to other people talk but you can't be responsible for their decisions.

The training of children is a profession, where we must know how to waste time in order to save it. — *Jean-Jacques Rousseau*

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Fill in the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains the numbers 1 through 9.

		5		8				6
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	8		1	7				

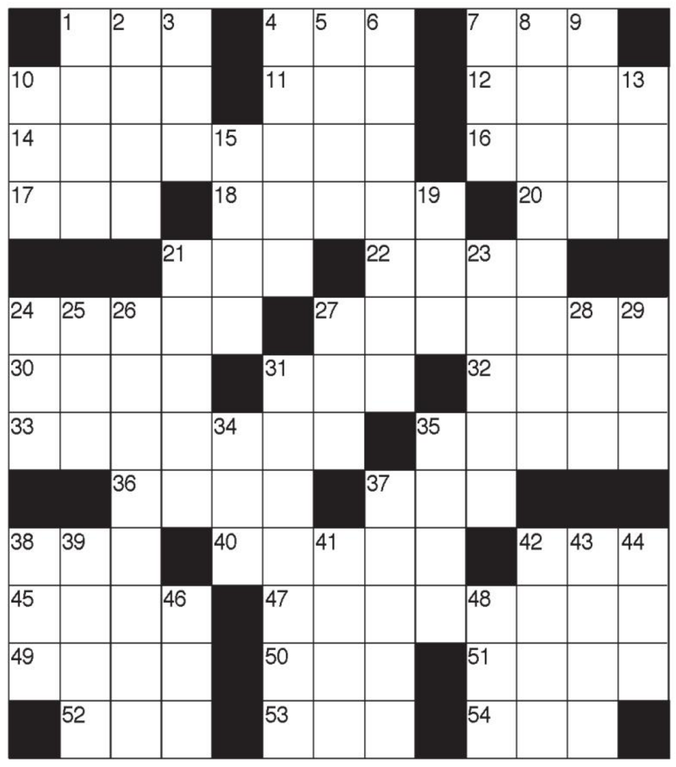
CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS

1 Tally
4 Basketball Assn. of America
7 Monkey
10 Jason's ship
11 Imitate
12 Famous zeppelin
14 Despot
16 Jutelander
17 Poetess Lowell
18 Narrow
20 Prohibit
21 Swed. county
22 Old-time firing pin
24 Grave
27 Toy
30 Ring of light
31 Berne's river
32 Medicinal herb
33 Proportionally assess
35 State (Ger.)
36 Anthology (abbr.)
37 Exclamations of delight
38 Hebrew letter
40 Comedy
42 "The Jungle Book" python
45 Feed the kitty
47 Hindu queen
49 Not (Lat.)
50 Turk. title
51 Religious image
52 Compass direction
53 Serum (pref.)
54 Sheep's cry

DOWN

1 Neat
2 Agency (abbr.)
3 Fly larva
4 Stick
5 Apocrypha (abbr.)
6 Air supply
7 Signed (abbr.)
8 Strauss opera
9 Sayings (suf.)
10 Amer. Dental Assn. (abbr.)
13 Marsh
15 Axillary
19 54 (Rom. numeral)
21 Discover
23 Scand. people
24 Drain
25 Possessive pronoun
26 Keeler (2 words)
27 No (Scot.)
28 Poly. beefwood
29 But
31 Uncle of Jason
34 Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms (abbr.)
35 Afr. tree
37 Pickled bamboo shoots
38 Defiant shout
39 Son of Judah
41 Choler
42 N.Z. parrot
43 Wild ox
44 Own (Scot.)
46 Gelderland city
48 Cut of beef



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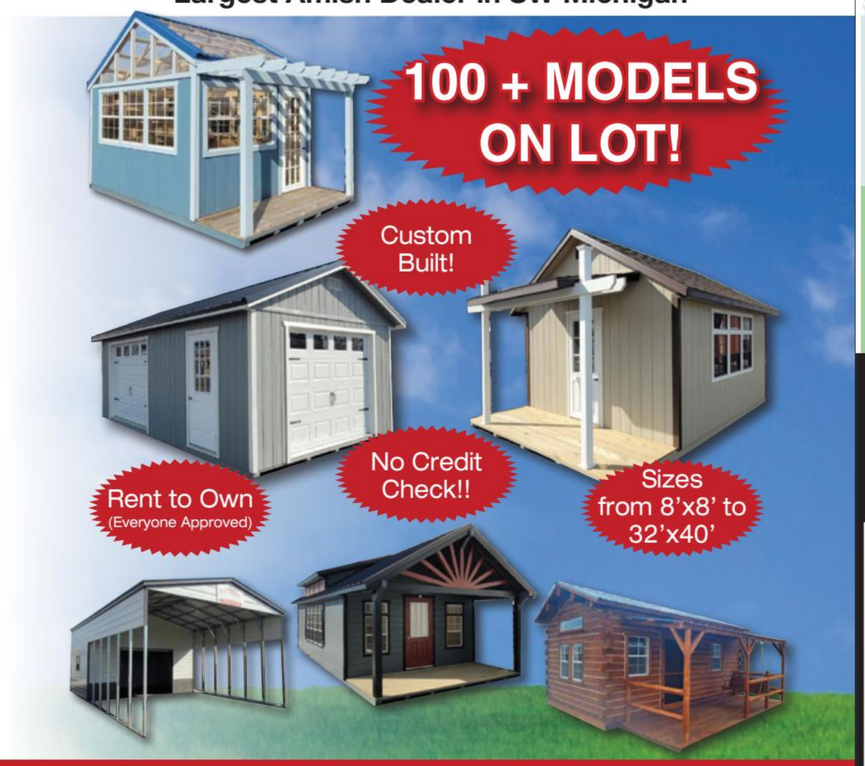

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FILM GROUP TO SCREEN 'JUST MERCY'

The 2019 film, "Just Mercy," will be screened at 1 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 8, at New Buffalo Township Library, with an introduction by group leader Eve Moran, followed by a discussion as part of the Harbor Country Film Group's February meeting.

Based on "Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption," the film tells the story of a Harvard-trained lawyer, Bryan Stevenson, who travels to Alabama to investigate the murder conviction and death sentence of Walter McMillian. During his investigation, Stevenson finds mounds of evidence of McMillian's innocence and fights to overturn his conviction.

"Just Mercy" was directed by Destin Daniel Cretton and stars Michael B. Jordan as Stevenson and Jamie Foxx as McMillian.

The New Buffalo Library is located at 33 N. Thompson Street in downtown New Buffalo. Film Group meetings are open to all and there is no charge to attend. The group is sponsored by the Friends of the New Buffalo Library. Free popcorn will be available. — STAFF REPORTS

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Dispensary marijuana leads to arrest at crash site

BY STAN MADDUX

A motor vehicle crash into a house in Michigan City resulted in the arrest of the driver for allegedly having a large amount of dispensary marijuana.

Leeanna Kirkwood, 35, is charged in La Porte Superior Court 4 with Level 6 felony possession of marijuana and two other misdemeanor counts of the same offense.

According to court documents, Kirkwood told police she was distracted by something and meant to brake. Instead, she pushed on the gas pedal. Her SUV struck the front of her neighbor's house at 401 Southwood Drive.

Police said the crash on Monday, Jan. 20, left a gaping hole in the structure.

According to court documents, slightly more than five ounces of dispensary marijuana products were recovered from inside a backpack lying on the ground beside the vehicle.

Police said Kirkwood did not appear to be under the influence of any intoxicating substance. There were no injuries.

DEATH NOTICES

THREE OAKS – Lyne Parwater, of Three Oaks, Michigan, passed away on Wednesday, January , 2025. Arrangements are pending at Wagner Family Funerals Pobocik Chapel, Three Oaks.

New Buffalo Times
LOCAL INTELLIGENCE
— SINCE 1942 —

OBITUARIES

Ann Shirley Dawson
1952-2025

Ann Shirley Dawson, 72, of Lakeside, passed, Friday, January 10, 2025.

Her life began May 12, 1952 in Michigan City, Indiana, the youngest of six children born to Giovanni and Antonia DeTomasi. She first married David Trumps in 1969 in Three Oaks, Michigan. After four years of marriage, he preceded her in death. She then married Thomas Dawson in 1976 in Lakeside, Michigan. After 38 years of marriage, he also preceded her in death in 2014.

Ann Dawson deserves a book written about her. Her strength, bravery, love, resilience. Though tragedies have touched her life, Ann chose to endure each negative with ferocious perseverance. Even in the bad, there was so much good. She did so much for others. Ann took on the role of caregiver to those who needed her, always willing to lend a hand. She was outstanding member to her community. Ann was gracious and selfless time and time again.

She loved bowling, The Wizard of Oz, bunnies, the color blue, but most of all her family - and that will be her legacy; unending dedication and love for her people. Ann's memory will live on through the countless lives she uplifted and the lasting impact she made.

Ann will be greatly missed by family and friends. She is survived by two daughters, Heather (Keith) Shimanek of Niles, Holly (David) Healey of Chicago, Illinois; one son, Joel Dawson of Sawyer; grandchildren, Becky, Rian, Naomi, Charles, Amber, Eric, Chucky, Matthew, Patrick, Michael, Hannah, Mitchel, Griffin, Jack, Austin, Zoë, Gio; twenty-four great grandchildren; three great-great grandchildren; one sister, Arlene Reed of Tennessee; two brothers, Jerry DeTomasi of Florida, Jack (Clareann) DeTomasi of Three Oaks; two step-daughters, Debbie (David) Bronson of Florida, Robin Brock of Grand Rapids;

special family members, Kevin Sherbit of Benton Harbor, Amy (Buck) Rochefort of Three Oaks, John Smith of Jackson, Kelly Garrett of Elkhart, Indiana, Jude, Noa; and a host of nieces, nephews, and cousins.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her beloved first husband; her beloved second husband; one daughter Judy Kwantes, one sister, Pat Keltner; one brother, James DeTomasi; two step-sons, Kenneth Dawson, Charles Dawson.

Family and friends will gather to celebrate Ann's life from 12:00 noon, Eastern Standard Time until 4:00 p.m. Eastern Standard Time, Saturday, January 25, 2025, in Peat's Cider Social, 6201 Red Arrow Highway, Stevensville, Michigan 49127.

Ann will be laid to rest beside her husband, Thomas, in Lakeside Cemetery.

The family prefers contributions in memory of Ann be made to Caring Circle Hospice, 4025 Health Park Lane, St. Joseph, Michigan 49085.

Arrangements have been entrusted to Wagner Family Funerals Pobocik Chapel, Three Oaks. Please share a memory or a message online at www.wagnercares.com.

Richard "Ricky" Lee McFadden
1952-2025

Richard "Ricky" Lee McFadden, 72, of Bridgman, died after a lengthy illness, Friday, January 24, 2025.

His life began June 11, 1952 in Benton Harbor, Michigan, the younger of two children born to Henry and Ardis McFadden.

Ricky loved music and playing his records. He liked cars and loved driving.

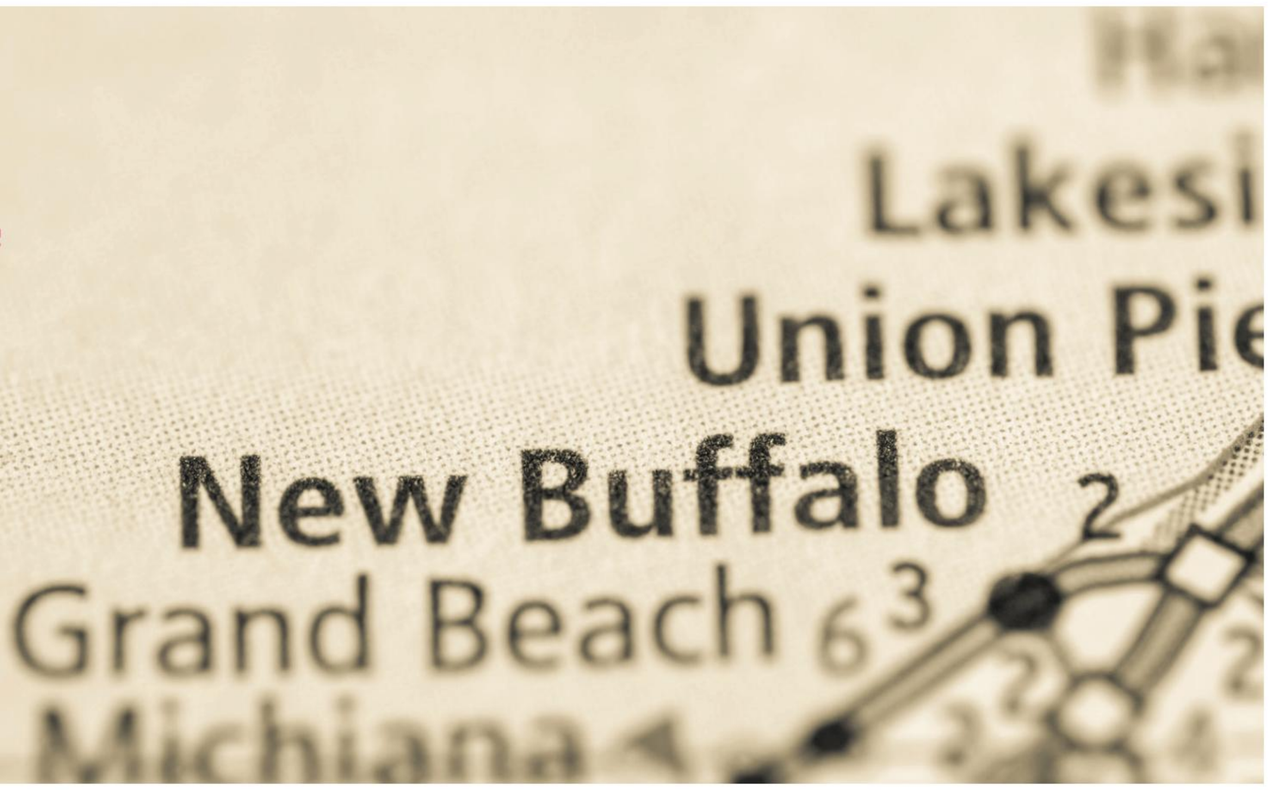
Ricky will be greatly missed by family and friends. He is survived by his, mother, Ardis McFadden of Bridgman one sister, Patti (Tom) Washer of Murfreesboro, Tennessee, one son, Glen McFadden and two nephews. He was preceded in death by his father.

The family will observe a private remembrance.

Ricky will be laid to rest in Forest Lawn Cemetery.

The family prefers contributions in memory of Ricky be made to Caring Circle Hospice, 4035 Health Park Lane, St. Joseph, Michigan 49085.

Arrangements have been entrusted to Wagner Family Funerals Pobocik Chapel, Three Oaks. Please share a memory or a message online at www.wagnercares.com.



PET OF THE WEEK

XXX

Inky is welcoming to visitors, and greets them with open paws. She is so loving and affectionate, and is quite literally the perfect girl with people. She gets along splendidly with everyone she meets. Inky is spayed, and her vaccinations are up-to-date. She is good with children, but selective with other cats, but not with dogs. Inky loves snuggles, and will want to be petted. If she isn't purring, she is chirping quietly and every so cutely. Inky would love to be your new best friend, is about one-and-a-half year old.

AVAILABLE AT THE MICHIANA HUMANE SOCIETY

LOCAL INTELLIGENCE
New Buffalo Times
— SINCE 1942 —

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PUBLIC NOTICES

Please join our New Buffalo American Legion Women's Auxiliary in collecting donations for Blue Star Mothers of America. They are shipping care packages overseas to our active-duty members.

Examples of what they could use are: Toothbrushes/paste, floss, disposable razors, shaving cream in a squeeze tube, eye drops, hand lotion, chap stick,
band aids, sunscreen, insect repellent, playing cards, word search, sudoku, and puzzle books, footballs, dominos, frisbees.

We are accepting monetary donations as well for the shipping costs. Checks for monetary donations can be made to:
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Rotary Club presents Village of Three Oaks with Golden Trowel Award

BY FRANCESCA SAGALA

Three Oaks Village President Steve Graziano (center) accepts the Golden Trowel Award with (from left) Steve Diller, Dan Faulkner, Gary Campbell and Gene Svebakken

It was four years ago, the time of the coronavirus, when Steve Diller noticed trees were being cut down in the Village of Three Oaks.

While Diller acknowledged that the trees were old and "on their way out," he was still troubled by it.

"What I didn't see were new trees getting planted," Diller, who's the president of The Rotary Club of Habor Country, said.

Soon, Diller was talking with other people in the village about it.

"It wasn't a Rotary project at the time - it was just people living in Three Oaks who were just tossing around this basic fact that we're a Tree City - those of us who live in the village - but we're not seeing any organized effort to get a lot of trees planted," he said.

After consulting with Three Oaks Village Manager Dan Faulkner, Diller learned the village has a line item in its budget of $1,000 that can go toward subsidizing the planting of trees in people's tree lawns, or the area in between sidewalk and the curb, which is village right of way.

"He said, 'We've had this in the budget for years, we'll pay up to $50 toward the cost of someone planting trees,'" Diller said.

After collecting money from a variety of sources, Diller talked with Tom Flint, the club's then president, who suggested turning it into a Rotary project and that they could put the money in the Rotary District 6360 Foundation.

He added the club could add money toward the project.

"I went back to Dan and said, 'We got some money, and we got some interest doing this – could we do this with the village?'" Diller said.

It was recommended by Faulkner that the Rotarians rewrite the permit form for planting trees to make it suitable toward the Rotarians' needs as well as to update the list of trees on the form.

Soon, a dozen Rotarians were going door to door, handing out the permit forms to residents. That first year, 27 trees were planted in the village.

Per the Rotary Club of Harbor Country's Facebook, for three years now, the club "has collaborated with the Village to the tune of several thousand dollars toward the purchase of new trees" as part of the Village Forests Program.

"The result is, within the boundaries of the Village of Three Oaks, around 120 trees have been planted so far, and an additional 30 trees have been delivered to residents in the broader Harbor Country region which they've planted on their own," the post said, adding that the trees haven't "cost residents anything."

The village's streets department volunteered to plant the trees, with Diller adding that they can use machinery to "pop 10, 15 or 20 trees in a day."

"What they did was above and beyond - they made it possible to do this in a way we never could've done it otherwise in lot of ways," he said.

Faulkner gave thanks to Clay Ackerman, superintendent of the village's Department of Public Works, and Nathan Smith, also of the DPW, for planting the trees.

As a result of their collaborative efforts with the Rotarians, the village was presented with the Golden Trowel Award at the New Buffalo Yacht Club Wednesday, Jan. 22.

Gary Campbell from the Rotary District 6360 Foundation said that the award was designed by the district to "promote non-Rotarians and people and also entities who give of themselves to promote the projects that are done by a local Rotary club."

Campbell added that trees provide an essential item to the world: oxygen.

"As our human population goes up and we cut down trees, we dimmish that and we affect the air quality of the planet and so anybody anywhere – Three Oaks or anywhere else – should be planting trees," he said.

Faulkner said that the village has been a Tree City for 10 years, which requires an annual application process to show the village has "made an effort to plant trees."

"There was a program that wasn't being used... The Rotary stepped in to help, rewrote the program, initiated it and it's great to see it's working," he said.

Those who would like an application for the Village Forests Program for this spring should continue to check the village's website at www.villageofthreeoaks.com.

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